



The Indianapolis Radio Club Newsletter

Founded 1914

January 2020 Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings:

February 7: Annual CES show report with Dave Arland.

March 13: Public Service Panel

April 10: ARRL Central Division Director, Kermit Carlson, W9XA

Highlights from the January Meeting:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 by club president, David Spoelstra, N9KT. There were around 40 in attendance.

Annual dues of \$20 are due and payable now. Dues can be paid at meetings, or checks made payable to Indianapolis Radio Club can be mailed to club treasurer, Mark Burke, W9MGB, 6347 Green Leaves Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46220.

The February meeting has been moved to February 7, due to a scheduling conflict with the speaker. It will be held in our “normal” room, IFC 101 and 102.

The 501(c)3 registration for the club is in progress, and will hopefully be completed shortly.

Winter Field Day is January 25, 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm local time, and will be held at the Salvation Army Training Facility at 4020 Georgetown Road, 46254.

David reported that he read where 2019 was 3rd worst year for sunspots since records have been kept.

Next, Jim Baughn, K9EOH, gave a presentation on the Owen/Putnam Forest 50/50 race, along with a couple of representatives from the race. They are in need of hams for communications between aid stations, etc. The race started in 1993. It is a 50 mile, 15 hour race, with an anticipated 200 participants. The date for the race this year is Saturday, March 21. The full day runs approximately 6:30 am to 5:00 pm, but volunteer shifts can be flexible. Contact Jim at jim@k9eoh.com or (812) 585-1385 to volunteer.

Mike Sercher, WA9FDO, next discussed the solution to the final jeopardy question from the Christmas party.

Next, Jim Rinehart, K9RU, started his test equipment talk. Talked about what equipment needed. He talked about the equipment most hams would want to have available, such as a multi-meter (Harbor Freight gives these away with a coupon, normally). SWR meters are very useful for the shack, as are antenna analyzers, for working on antennas and feedline. Jim said Vector analyzers have recently become pretty affordable. They used to run in the multi-thousand dollar range. Now, the “Nano-VNA” units are available for under \$100!

John Shouse, N9JSA, gave a more in-depth presentation on the Nano-VNAs that are currently available. John said that in his opinion, NanoVNA-saver is best software (available at <https://github.com/mihtjel/nanovna-saver/releases/latest>) for VNA operation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:05.

Ham Radio News:

IRC 2020 DUES PAYABLE NOW

Indianapolis Radio Club Treasurer, Mark Burke, W9MGB, wants to make sure everyone is aware that 2020 dues are now being accepted. Annual dues are still only \$20! Dues can be paid at the next meeting, or checks can also be mailed to Mark at 6347 Green Leaves Road , Indianapolis, Indiana 46220.

Contact Mark with any dues questions at mark@mgburke.com

HAMVENTION 2020 THEME ANNOUNCED

The theme for the 2020 Dayton Hamvention® will be "Amateur Radio, The Future." – Hamvention General Chair Jack Gerbs, WB8SCT, invited Hamvention attendees to celebrate amateur radio's past, present, and future. "As amateur radio operators, we enjoy many modes of operating," Gerbs said. "We also enjoy challenges such as satellite communications, moonbounce, meteor scatter, and more. What truly excites me about our hobby is the diversity of these modes and the fact that, as we move to the future, we still enjoy the technologies of the past." Gerbs noted that Hamvention has long been a place to find vintage parts and gear and to see the latest technology. "The theme acknowledges the role that amateur radio has always played and will continue to play in future communication developments," Hamvention said, acknowledging the contributions of the many hams who actively work on new ideas, equipment designs, and software to improve electronic communication. Hamvention 2020 takes place May 15 - 17 at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

TICKET PRICES UP A BIT FOR HAMVENTION 2020

Tickets for the 2020 Hamvention will run \$26 advance sales, and \$31 at the gate. Tickets will be available for on-line purchase via the Hamvention web site (<https://hamvention.org/>) soon.

2020 HENDRICKS COUNTY TRAINING CLASSES SCHEDULED

The classes are sponsored by the HCARS club and will be held at the Hendricks Co. Senior Center, 1201 Sycamore Lane in Danville (behind the Danville Hospital).

Classes start on Wednesday, January 29, and run every Wednesday evening through March 18. Classes will meet from 7pm till 9pm.

There will be testing on March 18.

These Technician and General classes will be for those who wish to obtain an amateur radio license or to upgrade from their existing license.

2020 TESTING DATES FOR W9JP TEST SESSIONS

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis IN 46254-2407

(note these dates are subject to change)

Feb 8
March 14
April 18 3rd Saturday because of Easter
May None 500 race activities
June 13
July None Indy Hamfest
Aug 8
Sept 12
Oct 10
Nov 14
Dec 12

“ON THE AIR” MAGAZINE NEW FROM ARRL

The ARRL has started making “On the Air” available in Magazine form (for ARRL members only), in addition to the print magazine, it is available in Podcast, blog, and Facebook formats. This series is primarily aimed at the new ham, to show them what can be done with their new hobby. For more information on “On the Air”, point your browser to <http://www.arrl.org/on-the-air-magazine>

UPCOMING INDIANAPOLIS AREA TESTING SESSIONS

Frankfort IN 46041-1811

Sponsor: Clinton County ARC

Date: Jan 25 2020

Time: 9:00 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: Michael V. Meiers

(765) 242-9015

Email: republic48@yahoo.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Frankfort Community Public Library

208 W Clinton St

Room 216

Frankfort IN 46041-1811

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Sponsor: Bloomington ARC Inc

Date: Feb 01 2020

Time: 11:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: William F. Wootton

(812) 876-8689

Email: wfwootton@gmail.com

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: First United Church

2420 E 3rd St

Register at 11:30am

Testing at 12 NOON

Bloomington IN 47401-5337

Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Sponsor: Indianapolis RC

Date: Feb 08 2020

Time: 12:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)

Contact: James K. Rinehart

(317) 721-1458

Email: k9ru@arrl.net

VEC: ARRL/VEC

Location: Salvation Army EDS Training Facility
4020 Georgetown Rd
Indianapolis IN 46218-2169

Franklin IN 46131-9733
Sponsor: Mid-State ARc
Date: Feb 15 2020
Time: 9:30 AM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Scott W. Nelson
(812) 320-2790
Email: scott@w9dba.com
VEC: LAUREL MD
Location: REMC Bldg
750 International Dr
Franklin IN 46131-9733

Anderson IN 46016-2238
Sponsor: Anderson Repeater Club
Date: Feb 18 2020
Time: 7:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Stephen M. Riley
(765) 425-4627
Email: smriley@hughes.net
VEC: ARRL/VEC
Location: Madison County EOC
200 Delaware St
Anderson IN 46016-2238

Columbus IN 47201-7477
Sponsor: SCICSG
Date: Feb 18 2020
Time: 6:00 PM (Walk-ins allowed)
Contact: Michael D. Tanksley
(812) 350-5175
Email: kd9eau@gmail.com
VEC: LAUREL MD

Location: Columbus Twp. Fire & Rescue
935 Repp Dr
Columbus IN 47201-7477

FEEL FREE TO SHARE OUR NEWSLETTER

If you belong to any other radio groups, please feel free to share our newsletter with them. They can also sign up to be on our mailing list by filling out the form available at http://mail.indyradioclub.org/mailman/listinfo/ircnews_indyradioclub.org.

SEND ME YOUR HAM RADIO NEWS

If anyone has any items for the newsletter, please send them to Ken Bandy at kj9b@arrl.net

Signals from the Past:

From the January, 1960 *Amachewer*:

Have you seen the new mikes for mobile operation? They allow the use of both hands for driving and make mobile operation a lot safer. *[Sounds like we have been talking about this for 50 years!]*

Upcoming Area Radio Events:

- February 8, 2020, 8:00 - 1:00: Hendricks County Hamfest at Hendricks County Fairgrounds.
- February 29 – Laporte Cabin Fever Hamfest – LaPorte, IN
<http://lpcarc.org/hamfest/>
- March 14, 2020, 8:00 - 12:00: Wabash Valley Amateur Radio Association Hamfest and Computer Expo at Clay County 4-H

Grounds. Go to https://www.w9uuu.org/hamfest/hamfest_2020.pdf for more info.

- May 15 - 17: Hamvention 2020 at Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center, Xenia, OH. Info at <https://hamvention.org/>

2020 Officers:

- President: David Spoelstra, N9KT – davids@mediamachine.com
- Vice Pres.: Dave Miller, K9RTT - dm0584213@gmail.com
- Secretary: Ken Bandy, KJ9B - kj9b@arrl.net
- Treasurer: Mark Burke, W9MGB - w9mgb@arrl.net
- Chief Operator: Quinton Ritter, KD9MVK - qritter@ivytech.edu
- Dir. at large: Jim Rinehart, K9RU – k9ru@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jay Kraus, W9TC - W9TC@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: Jeff Hammer, N9NIC - n9nic@arrl.net
- Dir. at large: George Taylor, KC9IKD - jr9554@sbcglobal.net
- W9JP Trustee: Jay Kraus, W9TC - W9TC@arrl.net